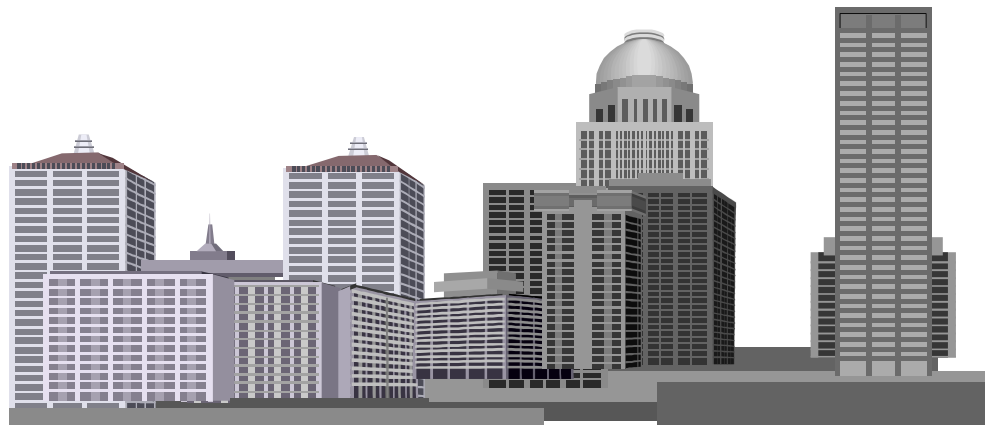


Metro Archives Newsletter



September-October, 2011

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Benjamin Franklin Avery, founder of B.F. Avery & Sons, was born in Aurora, NY in 1801. He started a plow factory in Clarksville, VA in 1825. In 1845, moved his business to Louisville, KY. He admitted his sons in 1865, under the style B.F. Avery & Sons and incorporated in 1877.

"If you can succeed in introducing your plow, you will have fortune enough...but I don't believe you can!"

That's what B.F. Avery was once told about his plow-manufacturing venture. He would come to disprove the statement.

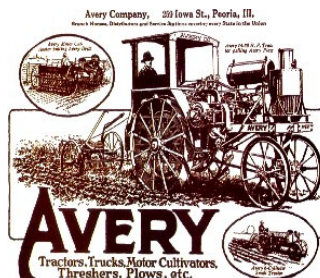
Understanding how this one plow company came into being can help a collector know and appreciate the state of the nation during the Agricultural Revolution, and how it has changed. In their day, plows were a means to more efficient production in an environment where farming was key to the nation's economic infrastructure.

Entrepreneurs of yesteryear carved a niche for themselves in the development and production of farm equipment. Such equipment created prosperous enterprises that capitalized on the newfound enthusiasm for tillage of the land. One such entrepreneur was B.F. Avery, the founder of one of the largest plow factories in the world.

The sixth of 15 children in his family, Benjamin Franklin Avery had access to both a formal education and full exposure to farm-work on land owned by his father, a member of Congress and large landholder in Aurora, N.Y.

Such labor, however, was distasteful to Benjamin, who

begged permission to go to college. His petition was granted, on condition that his expenses be deducted from the \$1,000 which would be given him on his coming of age, as was his father's custom. He accepted the condition and enrolled at Hamil-



ton College, but at the end of his first year, transferred to Union College, where he earned a degree in 1822. At his father's suggestion, he studied law, and was admitted to the bar in New York City.

Avery's mechanical inclinations and a curiosity about technology, however, soon pushed legal pursuits aside. His early farm experience convinced him that there was room for improvement in form and general construction of the plows then in use.

Equipped with patterns, a small, portable foundry and a stake of \$400, he started his first business venture in Clarksville, Mecklenburg County, Va. Joined by partner Caleb H. Richmond, a

practical molder, Avery opened his first foundry in an 18'x20' pine-log building, covered with slabs split from pine logs.

The fledgling business started with one ton of metal. Averse to debt and credit, the partners were industrious and enthusiastic, lived frugally, and soon began to see success. When their land lease was not renewed, they moved their operation to Milton, N.C. After cancellation of yet another lease, they moved to Meadville, Va., where they bought land. Avery was the business manager, dabbling in some of the hands-on work; Richmond operated the foundry.

In 1842, on the death of his father, Avery sold his Virginia property and business to a younger brother, and returned to Aurora to settle his father's estate.

While there, he became acquainted with a nephew, Daniel Humphrey Avery. Impressed by the young man's interest and aptitude, he returned to plow manufacturing. In 1846, B.F. Avery sent his nephew off with plow patterns and an open commission to select the best location in the south or southwest for plow manufacturing.

(Continued on next page)

B.F. Avery & Sons Company, Louisville KY

Showing good judgment, the young man selected Louisville, Ky., as the site for the new venture. The next spring, the business opened at Jabez Baldwin's foundry on Main Street in Louisville. Daniel Avery established the business while his uncle remained in the North.

Soon, however, he realized the need for his uncle's experience, and urged Avery to make an extended visit. The elder Avery arrived in Louisville on Dec. 25, 1847, intending to stay only a few weeks. But as he immersed himself in the young company's business, Benjamin Avery stayed on, at first just for the winters, but ultimately, permanently.

B.F. Avery was sure he could produce plows that were better made and less expensive than those in general use. But there was a resistance to cast iron plows, and sales were slow. For months, orders came so slowly that the sale of even a single plow was a major event. Friends offered little encouragement. "My friend," wrote Jas. Hewitt of Rock Hill

near Louisville, "if you can succeed in introducing your plow, you will have fortune enough, but I don't believe you can!"

The Civil War presented further challenges to the struggling company. Long before the war, Avery had built a large factory in the heart of Louisville. Though his sympathies were with the Union, Avery's plant was caught in the crosshairs of battle and destroyed. A more personal loss was the death of his nephew during the war years.

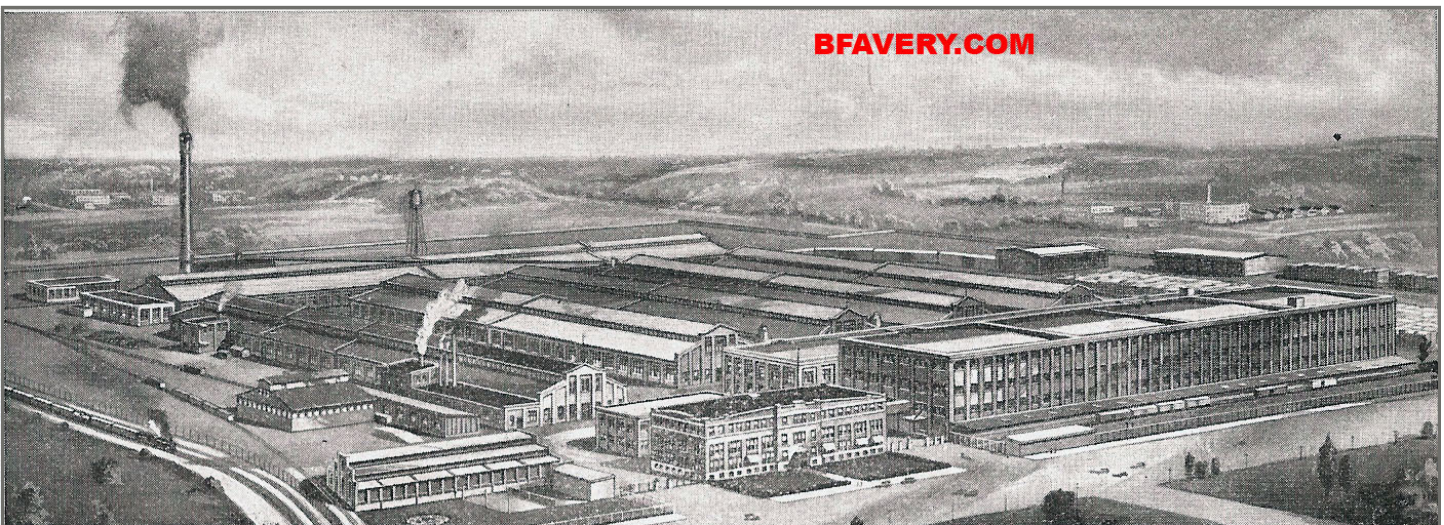
In 1863, Avery formed a new firm with his son and son-in-law as partners under the banner of B.F. Avery and Sons. The business grew and expanded until it became a leader in the west, with a large workforce and diversified lines of cast iron and steel plows. In addition, the firm published a highly regarded semimonthly newspaper, *Home and Farm*. The Avery Plow Works became the largest in the world, and Avery plows were sold in nearly every state in the country.

In 1951, the Avery company merged with Minneapolis-Moline. At that time, the two businesses complemented each other: While Avery was a leader in plow manufacture, Moline produced hay balers, cotton harvesters and mowers for forage harvesters. At one time, B.F. Avery had a workforce of 1,200 at the sprawling Louisville plant.

Production at the Louisville plant halted in 1955, and the property was sold. Though the company is no longer in existence, farm collectors will see Avery plows on auction blocks, in overgrown barnyards, and in the collections of many enthusiasts. They remain a symbol of the prosperity that agriculture once offered to both farmers, and the industrialists who produced farm equipment.

Internet Article

Jim Romeo is a freelance writer in Chesapeake, Va., not far from where the Avery company got its start. He may be contacted at 1008 Weeping Willow Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322.



VIEW OF PLANT

B. F. AVERY & SONS COMPANY LOUISVILLE, KY., U. S. A.

Today, a number of the buildings pictured above still stand near the corner of 7th and Industry in Louisville. One of the buildings (635 Industry Road) currently houses the Louisville Metro Archives and Records Center as well as the Louisville Metro Police Department's Property Room.

The 635 building was constructed as a warehouse for the B.F. Avery & Sons Company and evidence of the building's past can be seen, even though some modifications have been made, throughout the building. An adjacent building (also used by Metro Government) was originally a print shop. Both buildings

were constructed in 1919 and are on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information, visit the National Register's website at <http://www.nps.gov/nr/>. *Louisville Metro Archives is open to the public M-F from 8:00-5:00 and closed on government holidays.*

Alaska Questions E-Mails as Public Records

June 22, 2011

The State of Alaska is the latest state to be affected by the issue of whether e-mails regarding state business sent from personal email accounts are public records.

Alaska's Attorney General, John J. Burns, ordered approximately 25,000 pages of e-mails belonging to former Alaska governor, Sarah Palin, and senior members of her administration to be released as public records. The e-mails were requested by several news organizations in 2008 under the state's public record law when it was learned that Palin and her staff conducted state business from personal Yahoo accounts, according to a *Wall Street Journal* blog. Since then, 15 requests for the delay of the production of the e-mails have been filed with the AG.

According to MSNBC, Burns wrote a letter to

the news agencies and citizens who have requested the records, stating, "Although further delay clearly is far from desirable, I find that on balance a careful review best serves the public's multiple interests — including the interests both in a transparent government and in protecting privileged and confidential information from inadvertent disclosure."

As of June 10, 2011, the records are available in print only, and at a cost. The e-mails have been reviewed and those pertaining to only personal matters and subject to claimed exceptions to disclosure will not be released. Some of the e-mails will be partially redacted based upon the same reasoning.

ARMA International advises organizations to ensure their information governance policies are clear regarding the ownership of organizational information, regardless of the device

(s) on which it is stored. Information governance professionals have long recognized that recordkeeping provisions (e.g., privacy protection, security, retention, and disposition) are determined based on the content of the record, and not its format.

According to ARMA International's guideline, Requirements for Managing Electronic Messages as Records, "Organizations must understand that the content of electronic messages (e.g., e-mail messages, instant messages, and text messages) and the associated embedded or attached information may qualify as a record. Therefore, established records management policies may apply to electronic messages just as they apply to records in other formats."

Diane Carlisle
For ARMA International

Honda and Acura Breach Exposes Canadian Customer Records

June 22, 2011

More than 283,000 Canadian customer records held on specialized websites (e.g., myHonda and myAcura) have been exposed in the latest website hacker attack of a major corporation.

According to [h-online](#), Honda Canada said it had, "discovered an unusual volume of usage in the myHonda and myAcura e-commerce websites including some unauthorized attempts to access account information."

The latest breach dates back to March 2011, although Honda Canada did not begin to notify the affected customers until May. The data security notice posted on Honda Canada's website states, "The incident involved the unauthorized access of information as help in our records in 2009, specifically name, address, Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), and in a small number of cases, Honda Financial Services (HFS) account numbers."

According to [InformationWeek](#), this breach parallels a December 2010 breach at Honda America that exposed similar information for 4.9 million customers of Honda and its Acura

subsidiary.

[The Toronto Star](#) is reporting that Flaherty Dow Elliott & McCarthy, a Toronto-based law firm, has filed suit against Honda Canada and its affiliates. The attorneys are building the case on Honda's failure to adequately protect clients' personal and confidential information and failed to notify customers of the breach "in a reasonable amount of time."

It is also important that organizations ensure they retain personal information only for the length of time it is legitimately needed to transact business with its customers. Canadian attorney, David Elder, of Stikeman Elliott LLP, highlights this part of the responsibility in a blog post, stating: "All businesses that collect and retain such information should develop – and implement – a comprehensive data retention policy, setting out clearly justifiable retention periods for various data elements and mandating destruction after the expiry of these periods. Indeed, Canadian privacy laws require it."

Data breaches like these, notes Canadian Technology & IP Law, underline the importance of one of the fundamental tenets of

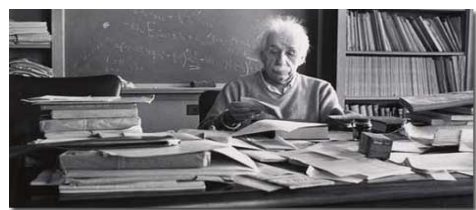
Canadian privacy law: that personal information shall be retained only as long as necessary to fulfill the purposes for which it was created or collected and, once no longer required, should be destroyed, erased or made anonymous. Each of the federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, the Alberta Personal Information Protection Act, and the British Columbia Personal Information Protection Act explicitly require such limited retention and eventual destruction.

ARMA International's GARP® Principle of Protection states: "A recordkeeping program shall be constructed to ensure a reasonable level of protection to records and information that are private, confidential, privileged, secret, or essential to business continuity. This highlights the requirement that businesses protect their clients' data. The almost daily occurrence of data breaches is evidence that organizations need to take the responsibility of data protection more seriously."

Diane Carlisle
For ARMA International

"If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, then what are we to think of an empty desk?"

~Albert Einstein





Exploring "ROOTS" in Kentucky / Fincastle County, VA

The book: **The Hornbook of Virginia History**, by Emily J. Salmon and Edward DC. Campbell, Jr., says:

"Fincastle County (extinct) was named either for George, Lord Fincastle, Lord Dunmore's son; for John Murray, fourth earl of Dunmore, Viscount Fincastle; or for the town of Fincastle, Virginia, which was established in 1772 and named after Lord Botetourt's home in England. The county was created from Botetourt County in 1772. It became extinct in 1776 when it was divided to form [Montgomery](#), [Washington](#), and [Kentucky](#) (now the state of Kentucky) Counties."

Court Records

Lewis Preston Summers' book: **Annals of Southwest Virginia 1769-1800**, includes 89 pages of Fincastle County records, mainly the "Minutes of the County Court during the life of this County". There is also a list of the "First Surveys of Land, Fincastle County, Virginia"; abstracts of three wills (Samuel Crockett, probated 3 Mar 1773; Samuel McAdams, probated 1 Aug 1775; and William Herbert, probated 3 Sep 1776); and a transcript of the "Fincastle Resolutions", perhaps the first statement of support for the Continental Congress.

Most of the Fincastle County records are presumably at the Montgomery Co Courthouse, as evidenced by the "Handy Book for Genealogist" saying their records go back to 1773, while Washington County's records only go back to 1776. However, it's been alleged that Lyman C. Draper was given permission to "take whatever he wished" from the Fincastle records. His papers are now housed at the Wisconsin Historical Society, as *Draper's Manuscripts*.

Charles W. Crush, in his book: **The Montgomery County Story 1776-1957**, states that the *original records of Fincastle Co are in the Court House in Christiansburg*, and that they include "the Muster of the Militia; Minutes of the Committee of Safety; Court records; lands grants; warrants of arrest; appraisal of properties of George Washington; the criminal record of Romeo, a negro slave, for attempted murder of his master; records of service in Braddock's War; the Expedition against the Shawnees; original patents; and most notorious of all, the bond signed by Daniel Boon and William Cown and the warrant issued for the arrest of Daniel Boone on

the fourteenth of March, 1774, and the fifth of May, 1774."

According to Crush, "the first court of Fincastle County convened at the Lead Mines, now Austinville, on the fifth of January 1772, ... [at which] The Court then petitioned the Governor to establish the Court House at McCall's place in lieu of the Lead Mines for the convenience that McCall's place lies on the Great Road."

Summer's says: "This Court doth recommend to his Excellency the Governor that he will be pleased to Establish the Courthouse for this County at a piece of Land Commonly called McCalls place now the property of Ross and Company and the Lands of Samuel Crockett in lieu of the Lead Mines ..."

The book: **Early Adventurers on the Western Waters**, Volume I, by Mary B. Kegley & F.B. Kegley, contains an excellent section on Fincastle County's formation, records, and extinction.

~Internet

Historic Sanborn Maps

Mapping for insurance, and specifically fire insurance, purposes existed for a century prior to the emergence of the Sanborn Company. In the decades following the end of the Civil War, fire insurance mapping grew rapidly, mirroring the flourish of growth in the country, the rebuilding of the South and massive westward expansion. Factors such as the Homestead Act, [railroad](#) construction, the Industrial Revolution and massive immigration into the United States all fostered huge population growths, urbanization, and heightened demand for mapping.

The Sanborn Company began making fire insurance maps in 1867 when founded by Daniel Alfred Sanborn, a surveyor from Somerville, Massachusetts. The Sanborn Map Company created maps for fire insurance assessment in the U.S. and within several decades became the largest and most successful American map company. The Sanborn Company sent out legions of surveyors to record the building footprints and relevant details about these buildings in all major urbanized areas regarding their fire liability. It was because of these details and the accuracy of the Sanborn maps, coupled with the Sanborn Company's standardized symbolization and aesthetic appeal that made the

Sanborn Company so successful and their maps so widely utilized.

The Sanborn maps themselves are large-scale [lithographed](#) street plans at a scale of 50 feet to one inch (1:600) on 21 inch by 25 inch sheets of paper. The maps were created in volumes, bound and then updated until the subsequent volume was produced.

The volumes contain an enormous amount of information. They are organized as follows: a decorative title page, an index of streets and addresses, a 'specials' index with the names of churches, schools, businesses etc., and a master index indicating the entirety of the mapped area and the sheet numbers for each large-scale map (usually depicting four to six blocks) and general information such as population, economy and prevailing wind direction. The maps include outlines of each building and outbuilding, the location of windows and doors, street names, street and sidewalk widths, property boundaries, fire walls, natural features ([rivers](#), canals, etc), railroad corridors, building use (sometimes even particular room uses), house and block number, as well as the composition of building materials including the framing, flooring, and roofing materials, the strength of the

local fire department, indications of sprinkler systems, locations of fire hydrants, location of water and gas mains and even the names of most public buildings, churches and companies.

Today Sanborn maps are found primarily in the archives and special collection of town halls and public and university libraries, and remain a vital resource for people in many different fields. Historical research is the most obvious use, with the maps facilitating the study of urban growth and decline patterns, and for research into the evolution of specific buildings, sites and districts. Genealogists use the maps to locate the residences and workplaces of ancestors. [Planners](#) use the maps to study historic urban planning designs. Historic preservationists utilize the maps to understand the significance and historical evolution of buildings, including their historic uses and building materials in conservation and rehabilitation efforts. Demographers and urban geographers utilize the maps to study patterns of growth and migration of populations.

A collection of Sanborn maps is housed at Louisville's Metro Archives and Records Center. For information, call 502-574-2554

Upcoming Events...

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 ARCHIVES CLOSED	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 					

Please contact the Metro Archives Staff at (502) 574-2554 for details and/or additional information about any scheduled event/s.